

PUBLIC ACT 59 AMENDMENTS

Lansing, Michigan

May 2, 2013

Opening Statement

(4/25/2013 Draft)

Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you this morning. My name is Larry Smith. I am the Director of the Frenchtown Charter Township Resort District Authority. With me this morning is Molly Luempert-Coy, Chairperson of the RDA Board and James McDevitt, Supervisor of Frenchtown Charter Township in whose jurisdiction the Resort District exists.

The Resort District Authority is a **unique** assessment district, comprised of primarily Beach Associations, which was created in accordance with Michigan Public Act 59 of 1986 by the Frenchtown Charter Township. This Act is responsible for transforming the region's infrastructure, i.e. roads, flood protection dikes, pump stations, etc. for this group of residential subdivisions, into a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family. Voters have consistently approved a 3 mill

levy on all property in the district, allowing for the construction and

maintenance of 42 miles of road way paving and 6 large water pumping

stations with over 80 miles of storm drains for flood protection.

Currently the RDA is in the process of rehabilitating the flood protection walls and dikes for these communities. The Resort Authority is

governed by a five member board. Members of the Resort District

Authority Board are: two members of the Township Board, appointed

by the Supervisor, two representatives of the Resort District living in

the district and appointed by the Township Board, and a representative

of the largest industry within the district (Detroit Edison).

It recently came to our attention that the language in the Act

which created the Resort District Authority restricts residents serving

on the governing board to those residing in subdivisions incorporated

under certain specific old resorts statutes. This precludes many of the

residents who live within the boundaries of the Resort District from

serving on the board. Since the inception of the act in 1986, the

community has grown and further developed to include new

subdivisions that participate in the Resort District Authority millage.

We do not believe that it was the intent of the original act to restrict participation on the board. The proposed amendment in House Bill HB 4208 corrects this issue and on behalf of the Resort District Authority Board, we are here to support and encourage its passage.

Thank you for your time, and we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Larry L Smith

April 25, 2013

